

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8977

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, TU

SUBJ: SOVIET VIEWS ON CYPRUS AND ON NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT

1. SUMMARY AND COMMENT. PRAVDA COMMENTARY (APRIL 3), WHICH STRONGLY CRITICIZES DELAY IN IMPLEMENTING UNSC CYPRUS RESOLUTIONS, APPEARS TO SHARPEN HITHERTO CIRCUMSPECT CRITICISM OF TURKISH POSITIONS ON CYPRUS. THE CANADIANS TELL US THAT GROMYKO'S REMARKS ABOUT CYPRUS TO AMBASSADOR FORD (MARCH 31) ALSO SEEMED MORE POINTEDLY CRITICAL OF TURKEY THAN USUAL. THE SOVIET PRESS HAS NOT COMMENTED DIRECTLY ON THE NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT, BUT THE CLAIM (PRAVDA APRIL 3) THAT "OBSERVERS" ARE CALLING IT THE MOST RIGHT-WING GOVERNMENT SINCE THE WAR STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT MOSCOW IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT DEMIREL'S RETURN. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

2. ALTHOUGH PRAVDA COMMENTARY BY V. DROBKOV WELCOMES ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES WILL RENEW TALKS ABOUT HUMANITARIAN ISSUES APRIL 4, THE MAIN POINT OF THE EDITORIAL IS A BLAST AT "FOREIGN IMPERIALIST FORCES" WHOM DROBKOV ACCUSES OF THWARTING EFFORTS TO GET TALKS GOING

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ON POLITICAL QUESTIONS OF SETTLEMENT. MUCH OF DROBKOV'S COMMENT

IS STANDARD REHASH OF USUAL CLAIMS THAT "CERTAIN NATO CIRCLES" ARE PLOTTING TO DESTROY CYPRUS' INDEPENDENCE, FORCE CYPRIOTS TO ACCEPT NATO MEDIATION IN LIEU OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, AND TURN ISLAND INTO A NATO FORTRESS.

3. HOWEVER, WE DETECT A STRONGER THAN USUAL ANTI-TURKISH BIAS IN DROBKOV'S CHARGE THAT SETTLEMENT IS BEING COMPLICATED BY THE PRESENCE OF "FOREIGN FORCES AND BASES (ALSO A LIKELY REFERENCE TO UK BASES)" ON CYPRUS AND THAT ACTIONS CONTINUE "DIRECTLY AIMED AT A DE FACTO STRENGTHENING OF THE SITUATION CREATED BY ARMED INTERVENTION FROM OUTSIDE AND AT THE PARTITION OF CYPRUS." DROBKOV ALSO APPEARS TO HAVE THE TURKS IN MIND WHEN HE CLAIMS THAT EFFORTS TO RENEW THE TALKS AND TO IMPLEMENT THE UNSC RESOLUTIONS ARE BEING "TORPEDOED" BY THOSE "WHO ARE PROCRASTINATING, SEEKING PERPETUATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION."

4. CANADIAN EMBOFF TOLD US THAT GROMYKO, IN TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR FORD, MARCH 31, TOOK A LINE WHICH THE CANADIANS FOUND UNUSUALLY CRITICAL OF THE TURKS. GROMYKO, ACCORDING TO THE CANADIAN, SAID THAT THE TURKS WERE BEING "INFLEXIBLE" AND THAT SOVIETS HAD MADE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO ANKARA. THE CANADIAN ALSO SAID GROMYKO REITERATED SOVIET VIEW THAT A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE BASED ON CANTONAL ARRANGEMENT PROVIDING THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS WITH "A FEW CANTONS."

5. PRAVDA (APRIL 3) ALSO HAS A SEPARATE STORY BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT VASILYEV REPORTING FORMATION OF NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT. THE ARTICLE TAKES CAREFUL NOTE OF DISPARATE PARTY COMPOSITION IN WHAT PRAVDA TERMS A "DIFFICULT COALITION," AND RESERVES JUDGMENT ON DEMIREL'S CHANCES FOR SUCCESS IN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. HOWEVER, VASILYEV'S CONCLUSION THAT "MANY" POLITICAL OBSERVERS ARE CALLING THE GOVERNMENT "THE MOST RIGHT-WING IN THE POSTWAR PERIOD" STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOT OVERLY PLEASED AT DEMIREL'S RETURN.  
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